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portion, and, above all, it is possessed of both literary appreciation and literary style.

THE HOMES OF JANE AUSTEN.

JANE AUSTEN. *Her Homes and Her Friends.* By Constance Hill. Illustrations by Ellen G. Hill, and Reproductions in Photogravure, etc. John Lane, London and New York. 1902. \$6.

The county of Hampshire in Southern England is interesting in that three neighboring hamlets are associated, almost contemporaneously, with the three vital names of the Rev. Gilbert White, author of the "Natural History of Selborne," Jane Austen, and Mary Russell Mitford. The circumstances of the lives of all three would be called provincial, and yet the strength and grace of their accomplishment easily passed the barriers of both space and time.

The present volume is the story of a pilgrimage made in due order to the homes and places where Jane Austen lived and wrote. The neighborhood of the old parsonage at Steventon, long ago torn down, is visited, and the precise spot is determined where Jane Austen was born and passed the first twenty-six years of her life. It was here, too, that she wrote her first three novels, fascinating studies of contemporary life, though they could not find a publisher till many years later. Of two towns not far away, Reading was the scene of the brief boarding school days, and nearer Basingstoke that of the county balls that figure in both her life and her stories.

Upon the father handing over the Steventon living to his son, he took his family to Bath, and the four years spent there gave the novelist of social life and manners abundant opportunity for further observation. A summer on the Southern seacoast at Lyme furnished other scenes for later work. The father dying, the widow and two daughters moved back to Hampshire, first to Southampton and later to a permanent home in the country at Chawton Cottage, but a few miles from White's "Selborne." Here Miss Austen's remaining years were spent, and three more novels were

written, based largely on earlier experience and observation. A short visit was made to some cousins in Warwickshire, the farthest away she ever was from home; also an occasional visit to one brother in London and another in Southern Kent—and this was the extent of her personal acquaintance with the world's geography. Two months before her death her sister accompanied her to the neighboring city of Winchester to get the services of a "medical man," but too late. She died in the old capital of Alfred, and was buried in the cathedral of William of Wykeham, which thus gained a new fame.

The handsomely printed and illustrated volume describes and sketches each spot in the author's life and works, and the effect is to produce a charming pictorial commentary on Miss Austen's life as supplement to both her "Memoir" and her "Letters."

MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF GOD.

MODERN CONCEPTIONS OF GOD. By Joseph Alexander Leighton, Professor of Philosophy in Hobart College. New York: Longmans, Green & Co. 1902.

Under this title we have an exegisis of the systems of Fichte, Hegel, Schleiermacher, and Spencer, and appended thereto an outline treatment of the questions uppermost in Prof. Leighton's mind in relation thereto. At first glance one would expect to find a popular exposition of these philosophies, but such expectations are unfounded. In particular the chapter devoted to Fichte has so many statements, so many quotations, and so many references that one cannot see the wood for the trees. It is always a mistake to attempt to cram a system of philosophy into thirty-four pages, and expect the average reader to emerge from the shower bath of quotations with all the water still on his head; as the water runs off, so do the facts, and one ends with the pleasurable sensation of the vast extent of the author's knowledge, and little more. Though coming under the same condemnation, the chapter on Hegel is by all means the best of the four, nor does one wonder why this is so after reading the last chapter, in which the author sets forth his own theory.

Taking the first four chapters together, we would say that, despite a most unattractive pedantic form, the matter is most interesting, and it is specially so because the philosophical